

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows. A new abstract numbered page 24 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Extra traffic paths are provided in a communication network including at least two protection channels associated to respective transmission channels. Each protection channel admits an active state for carrying, in the presence of a failure in the associated transmission channel, traffic to be carried by the associated transmission channel, and a stand-by state, wherein the protection channel is adapted to carry extra traffic. The protection channels are run in a sub-network connection protection scheme, whereby one of the protection channels in its stand-by state is adapted to ensure recovery of extra traffic carried by the other protection channel while the other protection channel is switched to its active state or is subject to failure.

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